

together

TOGETHER NEWSLETTER | FALL 2021 EDITION

INTERCONGREGATIONAL | INTERCULTURAL | INTERGENERATIONAL



TOGETHER A NEW HOME

On July 7th, furnishings from the seventh floor of the old CTU building were delivered to another old building in Hyde Park, about a fifteen minute walk to CTU. This has become the new home of the *Together* Program.

Over the course of several weeks, a significant number of generous volunteers assisted to bring some degree of order to the 4000 square foot apartment. Then the five *Together* participants gradually made their way to their new home.

While the apartment itself still requires a bit of attention, Jane, Youngmi, Pulane, Nicole, and Kelly, have made the apartment a “*home!*”

In today’s Newsletter, each of the women introduces herself. The diverse presentations you read are representative of the beautiful diversity of this new community. In coming Newsletters, you will hear more about this very intentional community.

Autumn blessings,

Maribeth Howell, OP, PhD, STD
Program Coordinator



Interested in joining the *Together* community? Visit our website:
www.together-formation.com

THIS YEAR’S TOGETHER COMMUNITY

My name is **SISTER JANE ASELYNE**, and I am in first vows with the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Monroe, MI. I am currently pursuing an MA in systematic theology and spirituality. Before engaging in graduate work full-time, I served as the communications manager at A Nun’s Life Ministry. Prior to entering my congregation, I worked in various ministries focused on disenfranchised populations, including teenagers and the elderly.

I was drawn to the *Together* for the communal and intercultural aspects of the program and living with others who are also dealing with the

stresses and joys of graduate school. This is my third year in *Together*, so you could say I’m the “wisdom figure” of this year’s group!

Every year I’ve spent in *Together* has made me appreciate the union our commitment to religious life brings us, and I also value the diversity held within our calls. Praying with sisters from different charisms, sharing meals and adventures, and navigating the ups and downs of community life has enriched my initial formation experience.

At right: Together community enjoys Mass at St. Benedict the African Parish



TOGETHER

My name is **SISTER YOUNG-MI BAE**. I am a member of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, and I belong to the Korean Province. In September of this year, I began my MDiv at CTU. My reason for participating in the *Together* Program was because I wanted to experience God's providence in community. Other people also recommended that I become a member of the *Together* Program.

For me, the *Together* Program is a valuable place to experience God's amazing touch of diversity. While I am challenged daily by my language limitation, it is a grace for me to be

I am **SISTER PULANE MAKEPE CP**, a temporary professed Sister of the Cross and Passion from the community of Sisters in the Diocese of Gaborone in Botswana, located in the southern part of the continent of Africa. In this 6th year of my profession, I embraced the opportunity to deepen my theological formation in a community of women who are my peers on this journey and who, like me, are discerning God's will in the world today. I first learned of *Together* through our sisters in the US and with support from my sisters in leadership I am currently engaged in my studies at CTU for future ministry in the congregation, the Church, and society at large.

Prior to CTU, I was serving in the Finance office of the Diocese of Gaborone and the other affairs of the diocese. I also cared for the affairs of my local community whilst participating in the life of the parish communities of the Church in my country. I also had opportunities to volunteer in youth ministry, learning from chaplains and ministers in the Diocese of Francistown at their camps and rallies. I have realized there are so many opportunities to serve in my local Church as well

here. The members of this group attend to me when I have an issue and are willing to help me. One member says "Good question" even when asked a small question; another member will escort me at any time so that I won't be alone in a potentially dangerous situation; another member happily solves difficult technical issues for me; and another member always makes everyone laugh. "Together," where we live, is a place where we are willing to share with each other the talent God gave each of us for other people, and to develop our rich lives together. I am discovering the beautiful direction of community life that young sisters can build here!

as abroad and in Africa, so I hope to be able to be a part of the future ministry emerging in the dialogue of the Church with people of the world.

I'm currently studying for a Master of Arts in Ministry, focusing on the Biblical stream to give me a foundation I feel will be necessary for my future undertakings. This is also my first experience in formal theological education, as my background is in Business and Commerce: marketing and management, and my work experience has mostly been in marketing and advertising. Religious life has exposed me to more experiences that have pushed the envelope personally and I find it has opened me in new ways to understanding and engaging our world. I hope to make a meaningful contribution to that dialogue.
Above: Pulane enjoys Chicago deep dish pizza!



My name is **SISTER KELLY WILLIAMS**, RSM. I am in my first vows with the Sisters of Mercy and have been in the Mercy Community since 2014.

I am beginning my studies at CTU, where I am pursuing a Master's in Spiritual Ministry. I am thrilled to take part in the *Together* Program and was drawn to *Together* both for the opportunity to study at CTU and for the gift of being able to share

My name is **SISTER NICOLE VARNERIN**, and I am a Sister of Notre Dame in my fourth year of temporary profession. I am pursuing my MDiv at Catholic Theological Union. I chose to study at CTU because of the *Together* Program.

I value living in community and desire to live with peers who are also continuing their studies. My hopes for the program are that we openly share

community life with Sisters across communities.

In addition to enjoying my time in Chicago, I am very appreciative of the city's, CTU's, and the *Together* Program's commitment to safe COVID practices. I am loving the sharing within the *Together* community of both studies and life, and am so grateful for this gift to grow spiritually, communally, and academically!

our various contexts and cultures so that we may learn from each other. Last year, the *Together* community was instrumental in supporting me as I studied remotely from Cleveland.

This year, I hope that support will grow to include accountability, study breaks, and the stuff of daily life.

Below: the group enjoys a trip to the famous "bean."



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Questions? Please reach out.

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